

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 202 without my signature.

This bill would require that a petition to compel arbitration is the exclusive means for asserting the duty to arbitrate a dispute. Unfortunately, this legislation compromises the State's and other public employers' legal defenses in litigation involving labor contracts.

The author intended to amend the bill to make it clear that the rule limiting litigants to a petition to compel arbitration does not apply to disputes related to the terms of a collective bargaining agreement. My Department of Personnel Administration believes that the amendments do not clearly exempt collective bargaining agreements.

I am therefore unable to sign this bill in its current form.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger